

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-29 were previously cancelled. Claims 30, 31, 32, 37, 43, 48, 49, 52-54, 60, 61, 63, 64, 66, 67 and 69 are currently amended. Claims 33-36, 38, 40, 42, 47, 50, 51, 55-59, 62, 65 and 68 are currently cancelled. Claims 39, 41 and 44-46 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A device for aligning sheets transversely with respect to a sheet running~~travel~~ direction comprising:

a sheet support including a side register mark;

a suction roller~~sheet holding device~~ positioned above said sheet support and having a longitudinal axis of rotation extending in the sheet running direction; and

~~at least first, second and third sheets on said sheet support;~~

~~a~~ an effective sheet holding surface segment on a circumference of said suction roller~~sheet holding device, said sheet holding surface segment~~ and having a longitudinal distanced~~direction~~ in the sheet running~~travel~~ direction, and having a

transverse ~~distance~~direction ~~in a direction of said circumference of said suction roller~~
~~and transverse to the sheet running direction~~, said longitudinal ~~distance~~direction ~~of said~~
~~sheet holding surface segment of said suction roller~~ being greater than said transverse
~~distance~~direction ~~of said sheet holding surface segment~~, said transverse distance being
~~less than said circumference of said suction roller,~~ and

~~a suction roller, said suction roller forming said sheet holding device, said suction~~
~~roller having a longitudinal axis extending in the sheet travel direction, said suction roller~~
~~being supported for rotation about said longitudinal axis above said sheet support.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 further including ~~first and second~~
~~spaced lines defining a length of said longitudinal~~ ~~distance~~direction ~~of said sheet~~
~~holding surface segment and extending in transverse to the sheet running~~travel
~~direction, said first, second and third sheets being~~ arrangeable along said length
~~arranged between said first and second spaced lines while being aligned transversely~~
to the sheet running direction.

32. (Currently Amended) A device for aligning sheets transversely with respect to a

sheet ~~running~~travel direction comprising;

a sheet support including a side register mark;

a sheet transport suction roller positioned above said sheet support; ~~and~~

means for rotating said sheet transport suction roller through one half a revolution for each sheet to be aligned against said side register mark~~[[.]]; and~~

at least first and second circumferentially spaced suction hole segments on said roller, each of said first and second spaced suction hole segment having a plurality of circumferentially spaced and axially extending suction holes, each said at least first and second circumferentially spaced suction hole segment being adapted to exert a suction pull on a separate one of a plurality of sheets to be sequentially aligned against said side register mark.

Claims 33-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 32 further including a suction roller longitudinal axis extending in the sheet ~~running~~travel direction.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 32 further including means supporting said suction roller for rotation.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 32 further including means supporting said suction roller above said sheet support.

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 wherein a ratio of said sheet holding surface segment longitudinal distance~~direction~~ to said sheet holding surface segment transverse distance~~direction~~ is greater than 3.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 43 wherein said ratio is greater than 5.

45. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 30 wherein said sheet support is a feed table.

46. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 32 wherein said sheet support is a feed table.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 wherein said suction roller has spaced suction hole segments ~~with suction holes~~ on a peripheral surface and alternating with spaced non-suction hole segments ~~with no suction holes~~, and further including a stationary pipe supporting said suction roller for rotation, means supplying~~supporting~~ suction air to said stationary pipe, and a narrow suction slit on said stationary pipe, said narrow suction slit ~~and~~ being alignable with said suction holes to define a narrow suction strip of said suction holes charged with suction.

49. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 32 wherein said suction roller has spaced

suction hole segments ~~with suction holes~~ on a peripheral surface and alternating with spaced non-suction hole segments ~~with no suction holes~~, and further including a stationary pipe supporting said suction roller for rotation, means supplying~~supporting~~ suction air to said stationary pipe, and a narrow suction slit on said stationary pipe, said narrow suction slit ~~and~~ being alignable with said suction holes to define a narrow suction strip~~strip~~ of said suction holes charged with suction.

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 further including means for moving sheets from said sheet support in ~~a direction of the sheet~~ running direction ~~travel~~ with a lateral offset.

53. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 48 further including a tolerance strip defined by an edge of a sheet~~strip~~ entering said sheet support, said narrow suction strip

being arranged between said tolerance strip and lateral offset edges of sheets
supported by~~lining~~ said sheet support.

54. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 49 further including a tolerance strip
defined by an edge of a sheet~~strip~~ entering said sheet support, said narrow suction strip
being arranged between said tolerance strip and lateral offset edges of sheets
supported by~~lining~~ said sheet support.

55-59 (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 further including a suction roller drive
~~motor~~.

61. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 32 further including a suction roller drive
~~motor~~.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 further including means driving said suction roller, and including bevel drive gears and a drive shaft ~~rotatably~~rotatably supported transverse to said suction roller and beneath said sheet support.

64. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 32 further including means said suction roller, and including bevel gears and a shaft ~~rotatably~~rotatably supported transverse to said suction roller and beneath said sheet support.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30 further including a flexible ~~belt~~shaft above said sheet support, said flexible ~~belt~~shaft driving said suction roller for rotation.

67. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 32 further including a flexible ~~belt~~shaft above said sheet support, said flexible ~~belt~~shaft driving said suction roller for rotation.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (Currently Amended) A method for aligning sheets transversely to a sheet

running~~travel~~ direction including;

providing a sheet support;

positioning sheet side register marks on said sheet support;

arranging at least first, second and third sheets in a scaled manner on said sheet support in the sheet running~~travel~~ direction;

providing a suction roller having a longitudinal axis;

supporting said suction roller for rotation above said sheet support with said longitudinal axis extending in the sheet running~~travel~~ direction;

moving said first, previously aligned sheet in the sheet running direction and transversely away from said sheet side register marks;

concurrently grasping said second~~first~~ one of said sheets from above using ~~suction~~ said suction roller and moving said second~~first~~ sheet transversely to the sheet running~~travel~~ direction~~[[s]]~~ beneath said first sheet; and

concurrently supporting said third one~~second one~~ of said sheets and transporting it beneath said second~~first~~ sheet being grasped by said suction roller~~[[; and]]~~.

~~moving a previously aligned sheet in the sheet transport direction and~~

~~transversely away from said sheet side register marks.~~